

## **CHANT HARINAMA EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Chanting of the holy name of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Krishna, actually started in Navadwip under the leadership of Caitanya Mahaprabhu ( the hidden incarnation of Krishna ).

After initiation from Isvara Puri (disciple of the then great Vaisnava Madhavendra Puri) Caitanya Mahaprabhu started His Harinam Sankirtana movement in association with Nityananda, and close associates such as Haridas Thakur, Adaita Acarya and so on.

After initiation, a complete change came over his spirit. His intellectual pride had vanished ; He became a real devotee of the Lord Krishna. Whatever subject he lectured to His students, the theme of His discourse was love of Krishna. Indeed he developed religious ecstacy and for some time behaved like a mad; He laughed, wept, incessantly shouted Krishna's name, climbed up trees or raved in abstraction imaging Himself to be Krishna. He now made the acquaintance of the elderly scholars and bhaktas (devotees) Adaita Acarya, Nityananda, Haridas Thakura and so on. Not only this He specifically ordered Nityananda and Haridas Thakura : Go to each and every house and convince the people to chant the holy name of Krishna as:

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna  
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama  
Rama Rama Hare Hare

Religious processions were frequently got up in which devout headed by the two - Caitanya - Nityananda, went dancing and singing through the streets or assembled in the courtyards of different houses. This was the origin of nam - sankirtan (chanting the name of Krishna) which has ever been the most distinctive features of this creed.

### **METHODS OF CHANTING THE HOLY NAME**

From the book Jaiva Dharma and Harinam Chintamani written by Bhaktivinoda Thakura the methods of chanting the holy name are described very shortly as follows:-

- (i) First of all chant the Harinam in an offenseless stage.
- (ii) Chant it continuously or as far as possible on your part.
- (iii) If you are in the namabhas stage, chant the holy name continuously and for that you will very soon reach the stage of offenseless chanting. At this stage not only mukti, you will get Krishna Prem.
- (iv) For concentration in the process of chanting you may choose the very early morning when all the nature remains keep quite.

- (v) Keep the number of rounds of japa with the help of japa mala which will develop concentration in chanting the holy name of the Lord.
- (vi) Chanting the holy name in front of the Tulsi - Maharani certainly produce better results.
- (vii) You can also chant keeping the picture/photo of your beloved Guru and before chanting the holy name you should chant the pronam mantra of Srila Prabhupada and Gurudev.
- (viii) Before chanting one should take the shelter of Pancha tattava i.e. after uttering the pronam mantra of the Panchatattava then chant the holy names of the Lord.
- (ix) To become a pure devotee of the Lord one must think himself inferior to even than a grass etc.
- (x) While chanting a devotee may remember the lotus feet and pastimes of the Lord. Chanting would bring success to the chanter soon if he can avoid the 10 Nam - aparadha (all these can be seen in a preliminary book on Krishna consciousness, especially the book written on Namhatta).
- (xi) One can chant the extra holy names before sleeping. This would bring deep and happy sleeping for the devotees.
- (xii) Avoid female/male attachment closely in the devotional life. Otherwise you may be refrained from chanting the holy name in appropriate time (where male attracts the female and female attracts the male is called josit - sanga.)
- (xiii) Hints/sanket, parihas, thosva and hela - these are the four types of chaya namabhas. Even chanting any one of these way will eliminate all sins of the chanter ( Bhagabatam 6/2/14). We discuss shortly about these four types of chaya namabhas and their fruitful results.
  - (i) Sanket - Example is Ajamil before who seeing the Jamduta before the time of his death called Narayana not the Lord, but his younger son whose name was narayana. Even calling this in a wrong way, still he is freed from the torture of the servants of Jamraj.
  - (ii) Parihas , Sometimes people against the Lord also chant the name Krishna like this Kesta , Kirishna etc. These people chant the name in a mood of criticism. Still they will get some benefit from chanting in this way.
  - (iii) Thosva - Chanting the holy name in dishonour is called Thosva. As for example a very sinner while trying to prohibit another person to chant the holy name also chant the name indirectly or unconsciously. As for example suppose a devotee is chanting the holy name of Krishna. At that time, say a sinner may come to him and say Ha! Ha! Your Kesta can do everything else!. Even this sinner may get mukti due to this namabhas.
  - (iv) Hela/Disregards - One may chant the holy name by disregarding it. Still he may get fruitful results for his mukti from this material world.
- (xiv) Bhakti, mukti, astasidhi etc can be attained through namabhas. But these people will not get Krishna Prema.

### **WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF CHANTING THE HOLY NAME?**

Srila Bhaktibenoda Thakura in his book Bhajanrahasha (Secrete of Bhajana) cited four reasons for which one will not be willing to chant the Mahamantra.

Improper or no appropriate knowledge about the Supreme Personality of Godhead and hence lead a self - centred life.

Evil thinking always or hankering after wrong/evil life - style and as such disinterested in chanting the holy name of the God.

Want to get rid from the material world always and as such is not interested in chanting Lord's holy name.

Proud in heart, envoy, to other, see the fault of others etc makes a man jealous to others. As a result this type of person generally do not show any interest in chanting the holy name of the God.

Different types of faults - As for example to incur offenses to others, nam aparadha, dham - aparadha etc.

Those who bear the propensity of the above defanets will never surrender to the Lord and His holy names.

### **CONFUSION / DEBATE REGARDING THE SOURCE AND ORDER OF THE HOLY NAME AND SOLUTION THEREOF**

Some one may wonder about the above title regarding the holy name of the Lord. Because a great majority of the devotees know that Kalisantara Upanisada is the source of the Mahamantra. And the order of the mahamantra is as follows:-

"Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama hare hare".

(Source and order of the mahamantra?). If it is in the above order and source is Kali Santaran Upanishada then why there is a debate and solution thereof?. At one time I am also told about and knew this. From now on, thirty five years ago, I came across Kali Santaran Upanisada. There were 8 verses. In the first verse :- Narad Muni asked His guru Brahma how the sinful people of Kaliyuga can be liberated?. Brahma replied, they will have to chant Tarak - Brahmanama. Narad asked what is Tarak brahmanama?. Brahma replied -

hare rama hare rama Rama Rama hare hare Hare Krishna hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare. (Kalisantaran Upanishad verse 1)

Now we find that in the said Upanisad, the order of the holy name (as we know) seems to be opposite. But from Caitanya Bhagavat ( Adi Khanda which has been discussed earlier) we see that Mahaprabhu Himself advised the people to chant the holy name in the order mentioned earlier.

I have personally enquired the matter and everywhere Hare Rama....order is seen in Kali Upanishad.

It may be noted that the founder of Toronto university Robert Toronto once upon a time collected 30 Upanishads from India and translated those in English language which he published in 1914. Even here in Kalisantaran Upanishad expresses the mahamantra in the opposite order as against the order general people and devotees know.

I discussed with some Pandits in Vrindavan dham regarding the order of the mahamantra. They informed me mahamantra is available in both Sanskrit and Hindi language and its order is:-

Hare Rama...Hare Hare.- i.e. opposite of the order which we know and chant generally. But in its Bengali version the mahamantra's order is Hare Krishna...Rama Rama Hare Hare."From a book Gita - darpana (written by Sri Ramsukha Das) we see the order of the mahamantra as it chants by thousands and thousands of devotees.

From the Brahmananda Purana we get the order of the holy name as we expect and chants.

Hare Krishna.....Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama.....Hare Hare.

But in Kalisantaran Upanishad mahantra is available in the reverse order.

However, Ramdas Babaji Maharaj in his Dasbodha book said that in the original Kalisanta Upanishads the order of the mahamantra was:-

"Hare Krishna.....Hare Hare Hare Rama.....Hare Hare.

He said that if anyone chants this mahamantra 3.5 crores times he will see the Lord. Again one who will chant Rama nama 13 crores times he will see the Lord.

Srila Bhakti Pragan Maharaj (Amriter Sandhane) claims that a very long time ago, the stern followers of Bhagavan Rama known as Ramaet - Sampradya changed the order of the mahamantra and in reverse order they published the Kali - Santaran Upanishad.

From the above analysis, we can reach the following conclusions:-

There are two sources of Mahamantra:- Brahmanda Purana and Kali Santaran Upanishada. The original order of mahamantra was:-

Hare Krishna.....Hare Hare

The rigid followers of Rama changed the original order and by reversing it published the Kalisantaran Upanishad. As a result Kalisantaran Upanishada available in the market till to date describes the mahamantra in reverse order.

### **WHO HAS INTRODUCED THE SIXTEEN ROUND OF MALA JAPA?**

(a) In the age of Mahaprabhu Haridas Thakura chanted the holy name of the Lord 3 lakh times. (b) Mahaprabhu Himself introduced/insisted His devotees and close associates to chant 1 lakh times. This is evident from the fact that whenever He was invited by a real devotee to Brahman to take prasad/viksha, he will always tell that He accept prasad only to those who chant at least 1 lakh times the holy name.

The above tradition was followed by Bhakti Siddhanta Sarasvati Thakura. He also said that devotee/man who do not chant at least 1 lakh times, The Lord Krishna do not take his/her any offers.

Now - a - days almost all the Gaudiya Vaisnavas chant the mahamantra 16 rounds through the japa mala. But a question arises who has introduced this system of chanting 16 rounds amid the mood of chanting, introduced by Bhakti Siddhanta Thakura?. I asked many senior devotees about this. But none can certainly answer the question about first introduction. Junior and mid level devotees of ISKCON almost all of them laughed at me and answered in a lighty mood, - Srila Prabhupada. Some of them answer in a ready made way: Why? Srila Prabhupada has introduced the chanting of 16 rounds for the first time. On one occasion I put the above question to H.G. Caru Chandra Das Brahmachari, the general secretary of ISKCON Bangladesh. Some senior devotees were also present. Caru Prabhu said that he has heard that Srila A.C. Bhakti Vedanta Swami Prabhupada has introduced the system at first. When I said to him that my beloved Gurudev H.H. Bhakticharu Swami Maharaj (who was a very close associate of Srila Prabhupada) while one day was delivering a lecture on Mahabharat. After the session is over one Brahmachari asked Him:- Who has introduced first the 16 round of Mala Japa?, My Gurudev answered that He does not know the matter. He further said now chanting is also done with the help of machines also. But who has introduced and from what time? Can anybody tell?.

The above fact when I put to H.G.C.C. Das Brahmachari, he said that he had heard from a senior vaisnava (but he could not remember the name of that vaisnava) told him that at the time when H.H. Tamal Krishna Maharaj was alive, at one night he saw a dream. In the dream he saw six Goswamis, Bhakti Benoda Thakura, Bhakti Siddhanta Thakura, Gaura Kishore Das Babaji Maharaj, Jagannath Das Babaji Maharaj. Srila Prabhupada was also present there. He appealed to all of them in this way:-

My foreign devotees cannot chant 64 malas because it is a very unknown practice to them. Then Bhakti Siddhanta Sarasvati Thakura suggest him to advise his (Prabhupad) disciple to chant 32 rounds (malas). In a befitting and humble manner Srila Prabhupada told his master that even it would not be possible for his disciples (foreign). Then his Gurudev Sarasvati Thakur said, What do you want? What according to you will be sensible round of japas? Prabhupada humbly prayed that 16 malas would be reasonable for them. His Master and other senior vaisnavas sanctioned this. All about this dream was explained by H. H. Tamal Krishna Maharaj to Srila Prabhupada in the next morning. Hearing the facts and figures Srila Prabhupada sanctioned/approved minimum 16 rounds of mala japa for his disciples. Since then this practice is seen in Gaudiya Vaisnava Samaj. However, if one can japa more than 16 malas, there is no bar. The actual bar is you will have to chant at least 16 malas.

### **SENAPATI BHAKTA AND HIS ROLE**

All the vedaic literatures, scriptures and religious books it has been said that in this age of Kali, liberation of men would be available simply by chanting the Hare Krishna Mahamantra other ways will be very painful, time - consuming and so on. The latter path cannot be followed by the sinful and short life of men prescribed for the Kali - Yuga (which is 100 years).

The above process i.e. chanting of Harinama was first prescribed by Mahaprabhu and the process continued through Guru - Parampara. This time A.C Bhaktibedanta Swami Prabhupada, the founder Acarya of ISKCON came and paved the way for congregational chanting of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra over the world at large.

Mahaprabhu said that His name will be spread throughout all the villages and towns in the world. He did not do this while He was in alive but said that His one Senapati Bhakta will come in future and he will do all the needful for this purpose.

Now we see that do CHANT AND BE HAPPY has become an universal slogan throughout the world. This was actually the motto of Mahaprabhu and Prabhupada and his close associates and devotees of ISKCON throughout the world are doing the needful in this regard. Papi(sinful person) tapi(those who are engaged in fruiti works) etc all are coming under the umbrella of ISKCON gradually and purified themselves for their salvation from this mundane world of the Kali Yuga. Lochandas Thakura in his book Caitanya Mangala(Sutra Song 12 text 562 - 565) refers to Srila Prabhupada (Lord Caitanya speaking of the reasons for the descent) as:-

"mama guna sankirtana vaisnavera skakti prakasa Karibe ami nija premabhakti"

The above verse tells us:- Chanting of the name and qualities of Krishna is the life and the energy of the Vaisnavas I will reveal these activities and rejuvenate pure devotional service unto Myself.

"ei mate Kali-papa Karibe sanhara sabe cala age pache na karo vichura"

- In this way I will destroy all the sins in Kali Yuga. So all of you My associates, go ahead and take birth on the earthly Planet before my advent and don't remain behind.

"ebe name sankirtana tikshna khadaga laya antara asura jivera phelibe katiya" - This means taking the sharp sword of the congregational chanting of the Hare Krishna Mantra (nama sankirtana) I will root out and destroy demoniac mentality in the hearts of all the conditioned souls.

"Yadi papi chadi dharma dure dese yaya mora senapati - bhakta yaibe tathaya."

- It means if sinful peoples escape and giving up religious principles and go to far off countries, then my Senapati Bhakta will come at that time to give them Krishna consciousness (senapati - a military field commander ; bhakta - a devotee).

Lord Caitanya empowered His own close devotee to spread Krishna consciousness around all cities, towns and villages of the world. And this movement grows day to day by the grace of Guru - parampara and the Lord Himself.

### **Conclusion:-**

Now - a - days chanting of the holy name of the Supreme Personality of Godhead (Krishna) is found all over the world. It was a very difficult task, and to many was almost impossible. But by the grace of the mercy of Krishna His pure devotee **A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada** made it easily possible through his writings, speech, procession etc. And as such he is now considered as the Senapati Bhakta of the Lord. (Mentioned by the Lord in the Caitanya Mangal)

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- (1) A disciple of His Holiness Bhakticharu Swami.
- (2) Came in contact with ISKCON in 1985.
- (3) Writing different articles on Vaishna Dharma since 1986 in the Four Journals of ISKCON Bangladesh (Monthly Hare Krishna Samachara and Monthly Journal Chaitanya Sandesh(News) Back To Godhead (BTG), ISKCON, Bangladesh and Amriter Sandhane till date.
- (4) Writing articles in Bhagvat Dharma Quaterly Journal of Sri Gopinath Gouriymath of Mayapur.
- (5) Have written several books e.g. Vaisnava Sampradya, Vaisnava Namdhari Apasampradya, Twelve Gopals and Chowshasti Mohanta, Sree Sree Radha Tattava, Sree Nrisimya Deva, Mahaprabhur Antardhan Lila (Disappearance) and Vaisnava Pradip ( a book containing more than 2200 questions and answers on Sanatan Dharma especially on Vaisnava Dharma).
- (6) Have written 10 books on various branches of Economics for Hons and Master Degree Students (e.g. Micro and Macro Economics, International Trade, Econometrics, Industrial Economics, Agricultural Economics, Mathematical Economics, Eco. Development Planning and so on).
- (7) Worked as an Assistant Director of Statistics in the Central Bank of Bangladesh, Assistant General Manager in a nationalised Commercial in Bangladesh Bank.
- (8) At Present working as a Preacher on Krishna Consciousness of ISKCON, as an active member of Kalyani Namhatta, Nadia, West Bengal, India.
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